

## Message Text

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62

ACTION ARA-02

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 INR-01 /005 W

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R 231944Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO USINFO/WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3440

UNCLAS GEORGETOWN 1898

USIA FOR IOP/M AND ILA. STATE FOR ARA.

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: GUYANA EDITORIAL COMMENT ON ELECTIONS

1. OPPOSITION PEOPLE'S PROGRESSIVE PARTY (PPP) DAILY PAPER THE MIRROR MAKES FIRST EDITORIAL COMMENT ON U.S. ELECTIONS IN SEPTEMBER 16 EDITION. TITLED SIMPLY "US ELECTIONS," EDITORIAL SAYS "TRADITIONALLY, THERE HAVE BEEN FEW MAJOR DIFFERENCES IN BASIC POLICY BETWEEN...DEMOCRATIC AND REPUBLICAN PARTIES. BOTH UPHOLD ECONOMIC, POLITICAL AND SOCIAL SYSTEMS OF USA, WITH OF COURSE, DIFFERENT POSITIONS AT A LESS FUNDAMENTAL LEVEL". WRITER SAYS "THE CHOICE MAY BE MORE WITH ISSUE OF PERSONALITY THAN WITH POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC MATTERS. TO SOME EXTENT...THERE IS NOW IN USA A GREAT CRISIS OF CONFIDENCE" FOLLOWING WATERGATE AFFAIR, AND NOW "AMERICANS ARE LOOKING FOR A LEADER IN WHOM THEY CAN HAVE CONFIDENCE AND FAITH "WRITER QUOTES FROM RECENT ISSUE OF TIME TO EFFECT THAT ISSUES AND IDEOLOGY WILL NOT BE FOREMOST CONSIDERATIONS, AND ELECTIONS "WILL BE COLORED BY RELIGION AND HAUNTED BY WATERGATE" AND REPEATS IN TIME'S WORDS OPINION THAT VOTERS ARE LOOKING FOR A STRONG LEADER THEY CAN TRUST. AUTHOR THEN SUGGESTS "WHETHER TIME'S MAGAZINE INTERPREATION.. IS FAIR ASSESSMENT OR NOT, IT IS APPARENT THAT VITAL ISSUES LIKE FOREIGN POLICY WILL TAKE A LOW LEVEL OF PRIORITY".

NOTING OPENING OF FORD CAMPAIGN AT UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN, WRITER SAYS IT INDICATES REPUBLICAN CONCERN OVER CARTER'S "STRONG BLACK BACKING". "AMID CAT-CALLS AND BOOING FORD MADE CLAIM THAT HIS ADMINISTRATION WAS THE ONLY (ONE) TO HAVE SUCH A POSITIVE POLICY

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ON SOUTHERN AFRICA. HOWEVER, THERE WILL HAVE TO BE SOME VERY

FUNDAMENTAL CHANGES IN FOREIGN POLICY IF BLACK OPINION IS TO  
BE CHANGED ABOUT THE US'S POSITION ON AFRICAN CONTINENT. IT  
WAS ONLY QUITE RECENTLY THAT US CONTINUED ITS TRADE IN MILITARY AND  
STRATEGIC AS WELL AS ECONOMIC GOODS TO THE RACIST REGIMES".  
WRITER CONCLUDES THAT "UNFORTUNATE ASPECT" OF THESE ELCTIONS "IS  
THAT VOTERS HAVE CHOICE OF EITHER TWEEDLE-DEE OR TWEEDLE-DUM"  
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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** cahillha  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 07 MAY 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <07 MAY 2004 by MaustMC>; APPROVED <28 OCT 2004 by cahillha>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** GUYANA EDITORIAL COMMENT ON ELECTIONS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, GY, US  
**To:** USIA  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006